



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Robert L. Morgan
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

(801) 538-5340 telephone

(801) 359-3940 fax

(801) 538-7223 TTY

www.nr.utah.gov

November 19, 2002

Chris Gypton
Hecla Mining Company
Box C-8000
6500 Mineral Drive
Couer D'Alene, Idaho 83815

Re: Waste Pile Reclamation, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Dear Mr. Gypton:

On October 25, 2002, the Division inspected the reclamation efforts on the waste pile located on the Escalante Silver Mine located in Iron County, Utah (copy of the inspection memo attached).

The waste pile had been reduced to an acceptable overall slope. There was evidence that prior to recontouring the waste pile, some growth medium had been harvested from the area to be affected by the resloping effort. The scenario discussed with Alan Wilson (Hecla) prior to the work being completed at the site was that a slot, the depth of the growth medium in the area, would be cut at the base of the waste pile. This slot would have a twofold effect. First, it would reduce the amount of area affected by the resloping effort; and second, it would provide additional growth medium to be used in the revegetation effort on the pile.

Because of the limited amount of growth medium for the revegetation effort, it is recommended that the material harvested before the recontouring effort be hauled to the top of the waste pile and spread down the slopes. This will allow for the maximum utilization of this limited resource. Once the soil has been applied to the slopes, ripping on contour can be completed prior to seeding.

Please notify the Division of the schedule so that, if possible, we can visit the site during the completion of these activities. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (801) 538-5382.

Sincerely,

Doug Jensen
Senior Reclamation Specialist

Jb

Attachment: October 25, 2002 Inspection Memo
O:\M021-Iron\M0210004Hecla\final\wastepile-ltr.doc



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October 25, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Doug Jensen, Senior Reclamation Specialist *D. Jensen*

RE: Site Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 16, 2002
Time of Inspection: 6:45 p.m.
Conditions: Warm, Breezy
Participants: Doug Jensen, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

To check reclamation of a small stockpile of material left after the mine closed. This material is located a couple hundred yards above the mill site.

Getting to the site:

The site is located several miles east of Enterprise, Utah.

Observations:

The material pile had been recontoured recently and it appears that prior to the recontouring effort some growth medium had been harvested from the area to be covered by the pile resloping. The soil harvest was not as extensive as Alan Wilson (Hecla Rep) had indicated during a previous meeting with the Division. To date, no attempt has been made to place growth medium on the reworked surface.

In this meeting it was decided that because the material pile was essentially a rock pile, some growth medium would need to be placed on the reclaimed surfaces to facilitate plant growth. The plan was that, prior to any recontouring work being completed on this stockpile, a slot would be cut around the base. This slot would have had a two-fold purpose: first, it would allow for the recontouring of the pile without affecting additional areas because material pushed down the slopes would be placed in the slot trench created by the soil harvest; and second, it would provide sufficient growth medium for spreading over the resloped pile. This plan also allowed for the reclamation of this stockpile without creating a borrow pit to provide growth medium to be spread over the pile.

Because the slot was not created before resloping, it is now probable that a small borrow pit will have to be created to make up for any shortfall of growth medium.

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Site Inspection
Escalante Silver Mine – M/021/004
October 25, 2002

Pictures were taken of the area that is being addressed in this memo. The date on the pictures is incorrect due to a failure of the battery in the camera.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

It is the recommendation of the inspector that the growth material that is to be placed on the recontoured pile be hauled to the top of the pile and spread down the slopes. This method of material application will allow for the maximum utilization and uniform application of the growth material being placed on the final slopes.

jb
cc: Chris Gypton, Hecla
Ed Ginouves, Cedar City, FO
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